

Chris O'Brien

From: Liza Burkin <liza@pvdstreets.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 3, 2025 12:37 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: H5314 - Support

Dear Chairman Abney and honorable members of the Committee,

It's no secret that the City of Providence is in big financial trouble. More than 40% of our valuable urban land is untaxable due to nonprofit status, and according to the Parking Reform Network, [27% of downtown land is parking lots](#). Both the nonprofits and the parking lots serve people across the state (not only Providence residents), and both decrease the tax rolls that are necessary to fund critical city services, including our public schools.

The State of Rhode Island should enable the City of Providence — and any other municipality that chooses — to enact the 7% sales tax on parking services. This would not only give cities and towns a critical tool for revenue generation, but would also make environmentally responsible means of transportation like public transit, walking, and biking more competitive with driving.

In Rhode Island, we pay sales tax on most of our daily commercial transactions (though I will add, not on private planes or luxury yachts, which I implore the Committee to reconsider as the State itself is facing a looming deficit and needs new revenue sources as well). Commercial parking lots should be no different.

Thank you for your consideration,
Liza Burkin
Board President
[Providence Streets Coalition](#)
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